GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1825
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006
IMPORT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gambier is being freely imported in the country despite imposition of ban on the import of tobacco products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strictly impose the ban on the import of Gambier?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): Gambier is a vegetable based tanning material and is used for dyeing purposes by the leather industry. Gambier is classified under Chapter 14 of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-2009 relating to `Vegetable Plating Materials; Vegetable Products not elsewhere specified or included` and is freely importable. Tobacco products on the other hand are classified under the Chapter 24 and are also freely importable.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) : Since the basic objective of the Foreign Trade Policy is to provide raw materials at international prices it may not be possible to restrict import of Gambier as it may have an adverse impact on export of leather goods from India.